

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain in the application.

A marked-up version of the rewritten claims is attached hereto.

The Specification was objected to because of a lack of section headings. The headings and arrangement specified by 37 CFR 1.77 are guidelines, and are suggested as opposed to being required, nevertheless, the Specification has been amended to add the headings suggested by 37 CFR 1.77.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, specifically because, according to the Office Action, claim 1 did not specify steps for carrying out a method. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly state the method steps.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toth et al. (US 5,708,655) in view of Gaffney (US 6,333,919 B2).

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method for transmitting multimedia messages to a wireless terminal. The method includes specifying for each wireless terminal, an address identifying the wireless terminal, and activating at least one data transmission connection for the wireless terminal.

Significantly, the invention includes informing the at least one multimedia message server of the activation of the data transmission connection for the wireless terminal, and upon informing the message server, transmitting the multimedia messages to the wireless terminal using the activated data transmission connection.

Thus, upon activation of a data transmission connection, the multimedia message server is informed that the data connection has been activated. When the multimedia message server has been so informed, multimedia messages are then transmitted to the wireless terminal, using the activated connection. This overcomes the disadvantages of the prior art where a message server must constantly poll the network to determine if a particular wireless terminal has logged into the GPRS network, as described in the specification on page 6, line 27 through page 7, line 19.

For example, using the present invention, when transmitting email messages to a GPRS mobile station, the messages are first sent to a multimedia message server, from which they are sent further only when the mobile station activates a GPRS connection. The multimedia message server is automatically informed of the activation of the data connection, and proceeds to forward multimedia messages to the mobile terminal. Because the multimedia message server is informed automatically of the connection, constant polling by the server is no longer required.

Toth et al. discloses a method for dynamically assigning a temporary address to a wireless station for routing data to the wireless station. The Examiner correctly points out that Toth et al. fails to disclose informing the at least one multimedia message server of the activation of the data transmission connection for said wireless terminal.

Contrary to the statements in the Office Action, Applicant submits that Toth et al. also fails to disclose a message server, let alone a multimedia message server. Item 28 identified by the Office Action as a message server, is

described in column 6, lines 43-44 as an Internet protocol address server (IAS). As such, the Internet protocol address server simply assigns temporary IP addresses. There is no disclosure in Toth et al. of a message server, or a multimedia message server.

Applicant respectfully submits that Toth et al. also fails to disclose upon informing the message server of the activation of the data connection, transmitting the multimedia messages to the wireless terminal using the activated data connection. As mentioned above, Toth has no disclosure related to a multimedia message server. In addition, there is no disclosure in Toth et al. of any facility to transmit multimedia messages to a wireless terminal.

Gaffney discloses a method and apparatus for receiving, storing, and originating multimedia messages. However, like Toth, Gaffney fails to disclose informing the multimedia message server of the activation of the data transmission connection for the wireless terminal, and also fails to disclose upon informing the message server of the activation of the data connection, transmitting the multimedia messages to the wireless terminal using the activated data connection.

In fact, Gaffney appears to operate in the same manner described above that Applicant's invention seeks to avoid. Column 5, lines 37-40 states that "When the multimedia message (M) addressed (A_s) to a location (SL_s), where the user (u) has a subscription, comes in an initial notification signal (P_I) is directed to this location (SL_s).\" Thus, upon receipt of an incoming message, the system attempts to notify the recipient. This is in contradistinction to Applicant's invention where, instead of attempting to notify the recipient upon receipt of a

message, the multimedia message server is notified when a data transmission connection to wireless terminal is activated.

Furthermore, there is no disclosure in Gaffney related to transmitting the multimedia messages to the wireless terminal using the activated data connection upon informing the message server of the activation of the data connection. Gaffney only transmits messages to a user after a user has replied to a notification signal (see column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 4).

It would appear that Toth et al. and Gaffney present the general state of the art, as described in the specification from page 1 through page 7, line 19. Toth et al. describes the basic features of the GPRS and Gaffney presents the basic features of a multimedia message server. The combination of Toth et al. and Gaffney appears to produce the prior art system described on page 6, line 14 through page 7, line 19. The purpose of the present invention is to solve the problems inherent in this type of system.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Toth et al. and Gaffney fail to disclose informing the at least one multimedia message server of the activation of the data transmission connection for the wireless terminal, and both references fail to disclose upon informing the message server of the activation of the data connection, transmitting the multimedia messages to the wireless terminal using the activated data connection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Toth et al. and Gaffney fails to render claim 1 unpatentable.

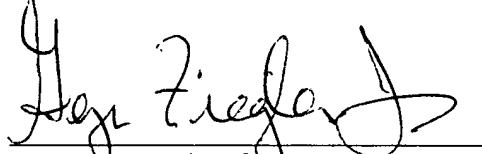
Independent claims 8 and 12 include features similar to those of claim 1 and therefore, for the same reasons discussed above, are also patentable over the combination of Toth et al. and Gaffney.

As claims 2-7 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and claims 9-11 and 13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7, 9-11, and 13 are also allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

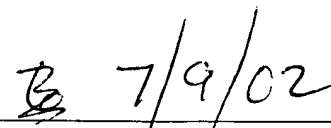
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: 7/9/02 Signature: (Savanna Belencha)
Person Making Deposit

Application No.: 09/312,179

Marked Up Claims

1. (Amended) A method for transmitting multimedia messages to a wireless terminal (MS1) in a data transmission system which ~~comprises~~includes at least one mobile communication network (HPLMN) and at least one multimedia message server (MMSV), ~~in which~~the method comprising:

specifying for each wireless terminal (MS1) coupled to the mobile communication network (HPLMN), an address identifying said wireless terminal (MS1);~~is specified,~~

~~and for said wireless terminal (MS1),~~activating at least one data transmission connection is activated for the wireless terminal;~~characterized in that information on~~

informing the at least one multimedia message server of the activation of the data transmission connection for said wireless terminal (MS1)~~is transmitted to the multimedia message server (MMSV);~~ and

upon informing the at least one multimedia message server of the activation of the data transmission connection, transmitting the multimedia messages to the wireless terminal using the activated data transmission connection.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, in which messages addressed to said wireless terminal (MS1) are transmitted to the multimedia message server (MMSV), characterized in that before the multimedia messages received by the multimedia message server (MMSV) and addressed to the

wireless terminal (MS1) are transmitted to the wireless terminal (MS1),

it is examined, whether there is an activated data transmission connection for said wireless terminal (MS1),

if a data transmission connection is activated for said terminal (MS1), the multimedia messages are transmitted to the wireless terminal (MS1) by using said activated data transmission connection,

if there is no activated data transmission connection for said wireless terminal (MS1), the next phase is to store the multimedia messages in the multimedia message server and wait until a data transmission connection is activated for said wireless terminal (MS1), to use it to transmit multimedia messages to said wireless terminal (MS1).

8. (Amended) A system for transmitting multimedia messages to a wireless terminal (MS1), ~~the system~~ comprising:

at least one mobile communication network (HPLMN) ~~;~~ ;

at least one multimedia message server (MMSV) ~~;~~ ;

means (SGSN, GGSN) for specifying an identifying address for each wireless terminal (MS1) connected to the mobile communication network (HPLMN) ~~;~~ ;

means (BSS, SGSN, GGSN) for activating at least one data transmission connection for said wireless terminal (MS1) ~~;~~ ;
~~characterized in that the data transmission system also comprises;~~

means (GGSN) for transmitting a communication message to the multimedia message server (MMSV) ~~information on~~ informing the multimedia message server of the activation of a data transmission connection for said wireless terminal (MS1) and for transmitting the multimedia messages to the wireless terminal over the data transmission connection in response to the communication message.

12. (Amended) A multimedia message server (MMSV), which is arranged to be connected to a multimedia message communication system, ~~which comprises~~ having at least one wireless terminal (MS1), at least one mobile communication network (HPLMN), means (SGSN, GGSN) for specifying an identifying address for each wireless terminal (MS1) connected to the mobile communication network (HPLMN), means (BSS, SGSN, GGSN) for activating at least one data transmission connection for said wireless terminal (MS1), ~~characterized in that the multimedia message server (MMSV) comprises~~ comprising:

means for receiving a notification that the data transmission connection has been activated including activation data on the data transmission connection,

means for examining the activation data, and

means (HPLMN) for transmitting packets further by using said data transmission connection activated for the wireless terminal (MS1).